

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 8, 9, 19, 33, 39, 40, 41, 43, and 45-51 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 52 and 53.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended). ~~A~~ An isolated histamine or serotonin binding compound protein capable of binding to histamine or serotonin with a dissociation constant of less than 10^{-7} M and which has a binding site comprising amino acid residues ~~phenylalanine,~~ isoleucine ~~or leucine~~ at position I, tryptophan at position II and aspartate ~~or glutamate~~ at ~~position~~ positions III and glutamate at position IV wherein residues I to IV are positioned ~~at substantially the same as residues 108, 42, 39 and 82 respectively in either of SEQ. ID. Nos 1 or 2, or residues 107, 41, 38 and 78 in SEQ. ID. 3 or residues 139, 71, 67 and 112 in SEQ. ID. NO: 4~~ or are positioned in a functionally equivalent complementarity of shape and functional equivalents thereof.
2. (withdrawn). A histamine or serotonin binding compound capable of binding to histamine or serotonin with a dissociation constant of less than 10^{-7} M and which has a binding site comprising amino acid residues phenylalanine or isoleucine at residue I, tryptophan at residue II and aspartate or glutamate at residues III and IV wherein residues I to IV are positioned substantially the same as residues 98, 137, 24 and 120 respectively in either of SEQ. ID. Nos 1 or 2, or residues 95, 138, 23 and 120 in SEQ. ID. 3 or residues 129, 166, 52 and 152 in SEQ. ID. 4, and functional equivalents thereof.
3. (withdrawn). A histamine binding compound capable of binding to histamine or serotonin with a dissociation constant of less than 10^{-7} M and which has two binding sites, the first binding site comprising amino acid residues phenylalanine, isoleucine or leucine at position I, tryptophan at position II and aspartate or glutamate at positions III and IV wherein residues I to IV are positioned substantially the same as residues 108, 42, 39 and 82 respectively in either of SEQ. ID. Nos 1 or 2, or residues 107, 41, 38 and 78 in SEQ. ID. 3 or residues 139, 71, 67 and 112 in SEQ. ID. 4, and the second binding site comprising amino acid residues phenylalanine or isoleucine at residue I, tryptophan at residue II and aspartate or glutamate at residues III and IV wherein residues I to IV are positioned substantially the same as residues 98, 137, 24 and 120 respectively in either of SEQ. ID. Nos 1 or 2, or residues 95, 138, 23 and 120 in SEQ. ID. 3 or residues 129, 166, 52 and 152 in SEQ. ID. 4, and functional equivalents thereof.

4. (currently amended). A An isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound~~ protein according to claim 1 ~~or 3~~ additionally comprising at residue V, a tyrosine residue, wherein residue V is positioned ~~substantially the same as residue 100 in the sequence of either of SEQ. ID. Nos 1 or 2, residue 97 in SEQ ID 3 or at residue 114~~ 131 in SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~and functional equivalents thereof.~~

5. (withdrawn). A histamine or serotonin binding compound according to claim 2 or 3 additionally comprising at residue V, a tyrosine residue, wherein residue V is positioned substantially the same as residue 29 in the protein sequence of either of SEQ. ID. Nos 1 or 2, residue 28 in SEQ ID 3 or residue 40 in SEQ ID 4, and functional equivalents thereof.

6. (currently amended). A An isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound~~ protein according to ~~any of Claims claim 1, 2 or 3~~ wherein said ~~compound~~ protein is stabilised by either or both of the disulphide bridges formed between ~~cysteines 48 and 169 and cysteines 148 and 119 in the protein sequence of either of SEQ. ID. Nos 1 or 2, cysteines 47 and 175 and cysteines 151 and 119 of SEQ ID 3 or cysteines 179 162 and 151~~ 134 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

7. (withdrawn). A histamine or serotonin binding compound of any one of claims 1, 2 or 3 which comprises a peptide, or a fragment of any one of the proteins FS-HBP1, FS-HBP2, MS-HBP1 or D.RET6.

8-9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound~~ protein of claim ~~any one of claims 1, 2 or 3~~ that comprises a synthetic ~~compound~~ protein.

11-17. (canceled).

18. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of ~~any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51~~ produced by recombinant DNA technology.
19. (canceled).
20. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of ~~any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51~~ having a toxin or bioactive molecule an effector or reporter molecule attached thereto.
21. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of ~~any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51~~ that is derived from blood-feeding ectoparasites, spiders, scorpions or snakes and venomous animals.
22. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of claim 21 that is derived from ticks.
23. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of claim 22 that is derived from Ixodid ticks.
24. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of claim 23 that is derived from *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*, *D. reticulatus*, *Amblyomma variegatum*, *Boophilus microplus* or *Ixodes hexagonus*.
25. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of ~~any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51~~ ~~associated with~~ fused to one or more carbohydrate moieties.
26. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of ~~any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51~~ that is ~~associated with~~ fused to one or more peptides or polypeptides.
27. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of claim 26 that is genetically or chemically fused to one or more peptides or polypeptides.
28. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of ~~any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51~~ attached to a label or toxin.
29. (currently amended). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding ~~compound or~~ protein of ~~any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51~~ that is bound to a support, such as a resin.

30. (currently amended). A therapeutic or diagnostic composition comprising a an isolated histamine or serotonin binding compound or protein according to any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51.

31. (original). A therapeutic or diagnostic composition according to claim 30 additionally comprising serotonin.

32. (original). A therapeutic or diagnostic composition according to claim 31 additionally comprising a cysteinyl leukotriene, platelet activating factor, or a thromboxane.

33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a disease condition related to a vasoactive amine, said method comprising administering an isolated The histamine or serotonin binding compound or protein according to any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51 for use in therapy to a human or animal, wherein said administering treats or prevents said disease condition.

35-41. (canceled).

42. (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a disease condition related to a vasoactive amine, said method comprising administering an isolated The histamine or serotonin binding compound or protein of any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51 for use as to a human or animal, wherein said histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 acts as an anti-histamine agent, an anti-inflammatory drug or as an antagonistic agent in the treatment of allergy and said administering treats or prevents said disease condition.

43. (canceled).

44. (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing inflammation or allergic reaction in humans or animals, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a-an isolated histamine or serotonin binding compound protein according to any one of claims claim 1, 2, 3 or 51 in conjunction with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

45-51. (canceled).

52. (new). A method for treating or preventing a disease condition related to serotonin activity, said method comprising administering an isolated serotonin binding protein of claim 1 to a human or animal, wherein said administering treats or prevents symptoms of said disease condition.

53. (new). The method of claim 52, wherein said disease condition is abnormal blood pressure, migraine, a psychological disorder, respiratory disease or coronary heart disease.